OPEN Arms

March 1997 * Vol. 9 Number 3

P.O. Box 845 Mishawaka, IN 46546

Earlier this month, two of our *Open Arms* staff members resigned and also chose to discontinue their subscription. One of the reasons given for resigning from the staff was that they did not want to read about anyone's religious views and did not want any literature of religious nature coming into their home univited.....We are sorry that these two wimmin have resigned, but as a newsletter, *Open Arms* tries to provide information of all *types* that we feel could be of interest to our community. We realize that not everyone can use all of the information that is in each newsletter.

Our subscription base has grown about 30% over the last couple of years and we receive new subscribers almost every month. We have received a lot of positive comments lately from wimmin's renewal letters, stating how much they like the newsletter and the articles, especially the community page, that lists local and area events. These community events play a major role in the building of our community by reaching out to sisters who may not be able to meet and socialize with other wimmin.

All of us only have so much time and energy to devote to any cause. If anyone has an interest in any of the following suggested events and would like to devote some time and energy into developing a community activity, please call a *Open Arms* staff member or write the P.O. Box. We can pool our resources, have more activities and watch our community **GROW!!**

Suggestions: Bowling, Cross-Country Skiing, MotorCycle Trips, Singles Social Events, Bus Shopping Trips, Theater & Dining (Beef & Board, Indy), Ball Games, Gambling Boats, Bingo, Camping, Womyn's Concerts and Lectures, Trip to Chicago Lesbian/Gay Film Festival.

YOU CAN PLEASE SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME, YOU CAN PLEASE ALL OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME, BUT YOU CAN'T PLEASE ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME!!

WGCS, 91.1 FM presents "A WOMEN'S CIRCLE" every Sunday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Word has reached us that the signal for WGCS isn't very strong and may be overwhelmed by WAUS (90.7) Plans are in the works to strengthen WGCS' signal by moving the transmitter and tower to another location, but the moving date is unknown at this time.

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OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the April newsletter is Mar.15th. Submissions received after Mar.15th may not be published in the March newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms,* P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting Mar. 9, 6:30 p.m. For more information call 219-271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze.....219-254-8676 (Beeper)
Kaye & Marcia.....219-271-0338
Jean.....219-259-2177

NOTICE !!!!!!

Court of Friends mailing address is now P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546.

Court of Friends will resume publication in April issue of the newsletter.

We apologize for any inconviences this may cause.

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARCH 1, 8:00 pm.....Madame Walker Theater, Indianapolis, (317-931-9464) Indy psychotherapist, Nancy Van Arsdall will narrate the Indy Women's Chorus concert "Coming Full Circle", which focuses on the cycles of relationships.
VanArsdall will speak and do readings concerned with intimate relationships and their importance to individuals in between songs by the 50-member chorus.

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MARCH 8, 7:30 pm.....Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, 1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Andersonville, Illinois, (773-477-8362) presents an evening of martial entertainment with The Women of Thousand Waves Karate that will include musical kata, weapons demonstration, board breaking, jump spinning crescent kicks and more. Come and enjoy the power and grace of these incredible martial artists.

==========

MARCH 15, 8 pm- 1am.....Lavender Rhythm is having a **SPRING DANCE,** Pickwick Place, 219 N. 4th St. Niles, Mich. Admission is $7.00 at the door. Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB. Two Lee Lynch books to be given out as door prizes!! For more info (616-684-7362)

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MARCH 15, 6:30 pm ......"An Enchanted Evening" A Pandora Production .....for women only at the Food Dance Cafe, 161 E. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, Mi. $40.00 per person, plus tax and gratuity. A silent auction will be held throughout the evening. *Enchanting dress suggested.* Call 616-388-5656 for information and/or Reservations by March 3

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MARCH 15, 8:00 pm-1am.....Women in the Arts, Inc. is holding its 7th Annual Goddess Rocks Dance and Silent Auction at The Garrison (formerly Ft. Harrison Officer's Club) 6002 N. Post Road, Indianapolis. Tickets are $15 in advance, $18 at the door. D.J is the fabulous "Special K". Included in the ticket price are hors d'oeuvres with a variety of munchies. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit the National Women's Music Festival. Under 21 welcome. For info call 317-927-9355

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MARCH 21, 6:30 pm..... 3rd FRIDAY OUT
Old Chicago Steak House, 222 S. Michigan St. South Bend (Portions are huge-bring a friend) To make reservations call Sherrill or Lori at 616-684-6913 by Tuesday, March 18th. Suggestions of future places would be appreciated.

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MARCH 31, 1:00 pm.....VIV's CREATIVITY SALON
417 Michigan St., Berrien Springs, Mich. Bring stories, paintings, songs, poems, ect, to share self expression and your creative energy with other Wimmin. For more information, call Viv (616-473-6150) or Lisa (219-299-9241)

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APRIL 13, 7:30 pm.....ANI DIFRANCO appearing in The Egyptian Room at the Murat Centre, in downtown Indianapolis, with special guest Dan Bern. The 26 year-old eclectic folk/pop/rock singer/songwriter/musician has been called the word-of-mouth phenomenon. She has been playing sold out shows for years. Critics and fans are united in their praise for Defranco. She is touring in support of her eighth album.
Tickets are $18.50. Call the Murat Box office at 317-231-0000 or Ticketmaster at 317-239-5151

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May 16-18 .....the 3rd ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRIESTESSES in Southwestern Wisconsin. The gathering will be held at a state park approx. 2 hours from Madison. The indoor camp includes a lodge and communal bunkhouse-style cabins with bathrooms and hot showers. Vegetarian meals will be served. Attend workshops with topics like celebrating the Goddess through Dance and Movement. Registration fee $90-$120. SASE for free brochure, RCG, Box 6677, Madison WI.53716 Contact Deb or Jade 608-257-5858

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OLIVIA CRUISES

April 14-21, Mexican Caribbean Cruise
July 4-11, Greece/Turkey Cruise
October 25-November 1, Mexico Resort (Huatulco Club Med)
December 13-20, Hawaii Cruise
April 12-19, 1998, Eastern Caribbean Cruise
February 14-21, 1998, Costa Rica Yacht Cruise
1-800-631-6277

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MICHIANA MOMAZONS

Momazons is a support group for lesbians desiring children through alternative insemination and/or adoptions and with children from marriages. We meet on a monthly basis. If you are thinking about motherhood, trying to get pregnant or adopt, or are already a lesbian mother, you may be interested in participating in our group. We provide support, information sharing, resource options, and great storytelling about our individual experiences as we pursue motherhood.
Contact: Momazons of Michiana at 1319 Maple Street, Niles, Michigan 49120

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LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP
Every Tuesday 7-9 pm
For information, Write to:
LSG
P.O. Box 1612,
Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

A LIFE IN HATS

By Lee Lynch

As I packed my gear for a day in town, I grabbed my rain hat and dashed to the car. I live in rainy Oregon; this ritual has become second nature. But I've always been a hat person.

It's not a butch thing, as decades of photographs of femmes bedecked in feathered felt or flowered straw illustrate. Vanity, practicality, style, eccentricity, another way of declaring who we are in this world -- these are all reasons for the headgear habit. And then I suppose certain styles might be considered a butch thing...

This rain hat of mine comes from arid Sedona, Arizona of all places. It was my birthday. When I fell in love with this nylon, khaki-colored, floppy-brimmed, flat-crowned Columbia yuppie-adventurer gem, Lover shooed me out of the shop. It's never failed to keep my glasses free of raindrops.

It all started when I was a kid. My mother knew better than to buy me some wide-brimmed straw sun bonnet. It was a white canvas sailor's hat for me, front bent down to protect my face, and back up again like a real sailor when out of sight of my mother.

In sixth grade, Elvis Presley exploded into my eleven-year old world. Why did my mother indulge me by buying that white fedora-style hat festooned with Elvis illustrations? And let me wear it to school where the kids called me Elvis.

Four more years and I was OUT! My high school years were hatless. This was a butch thing. Rain, snow, wind -- no hat, no hood and especially no sissy umbrella. No, those years were for the overgrown pixie cut slicked back into anemic popadour and ducktail -- my butch helmet. Little urban Amazon, strutting the streets, femme on my arm -- no hat could have fit on that swollen head.

College returned hats to my life. Maybe, as a rebel gay, I felt protected beneath them. I remember a particularly offensive turquoise suede golf cap rescued from a bargain bin. Berets seemed more appropriate for college, but I never could confortably incorporate the concepts of butch and academe.

As my college career continued through the mid-1960s and I became barefoot dyke poet, only money prevented me from owning a hat for every mood. The hippie culture contributed little to hat styles. I found cheap red crushers that could be molded to the cavalier look I needed in a gay bar, the skulking shadowed image sported by my druggie pals, the silly zaniness I'd feel after sharing a pitcher of beer at the college tavern. But I never wore my crusher in the rain. My head couldn't shrink, but my precious crusher might!

I graduated from college directly into the closet. Straight jobs, real poverty, isolation from any community, hats seemed part of a lost youth. Little did I know the women's and gay lib movements were just down the pike.

Today I have a wall full of the things. Lover even gave me one of those baseball cap racks, probably to get them out of sight -- New York Yankees (my team!), Redman chewing tobacco from a trip to the rural South, the State Police and Shoprite Supermarkets (both former employers), CAT heavy equipment simply because it says CAT -- souvenirs of my life.

When I poke around in my closet inevitably the white cowboy hat for dress up, the gray fedora, the straw hat for working the in the yard, my Irish wool tweed, a painter's cap that reads, "An Army of Lovers Cannot Fail" -- rain down from the wall. As I hang them back up one by one, I find myself in each hat, from the ebullient little kid to the middle-aged lesbian who prefers to keep her glasses dry with style.

Coyright Lee Lynch 1997

Coming in April!!

The API Theatre presents an evening of theatre that will touch a spectrum of emotions...

Behind A Masquerade of Rhymes

by PS Lorio

A circle of friends...two women in love. "Masquerade.." is a story about loving the right person at the wrong time, the difficult choices and responsibilities of honor, and wanting to do the right thing. A play that reminds us that life is tender, comic and tragic...

Show Dates: April 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26

Curtain Times: Thursdays--7:30 Fridays and Saturdays--8:00

Ticket Prices: (If tickets are reserved before 5:00 the day of the show)
Thursdays--$6.00 Students and Seniors $8.00 General Public
Fridays and Saturdays-- $8.00 Students and Seniors
$10.00 General Public
All seats $2.00 more at the door

For reservations, call the API Theatre Box Office at (616) 343-8090

7 Weeks for 7 Womyn

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(616) 473-6150

Time: 7 Sundays 1-3:30 PM

Bring a notebook, paper or journal of your choice for your inner healing dialogue during and between sessions.

Sliding scale fee of $25 - $35 per session. We'll begin as soon as 7 of you have invited yourselves to share in this creative, restorative event.

For directions or more information feel free to call Vivian Ahlers at The Serenity Center.

Yes! Here's my fee for the first week to reserve my space in *7 Weeks for 7 Womyn!*

Name_____

Address_____

Phone _____ Best time to call_____

If you wish, list some outcomes you would like from this healing marathon...

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OPEN ARMS MISSION STATEMENT

***Open Arms* exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community. *Open Arms* is discreetly mailed 12 times a year in a security envelope with a P.O. Box return address only. Our mailing list is kept confidential and never given to other publications or special interest groups.**

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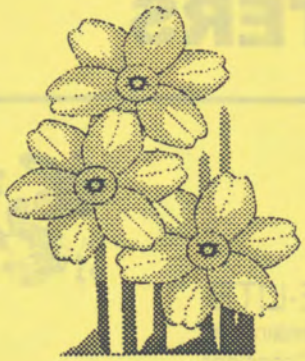

THINK.... SPRING!

March

1997

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
						1 WOMEN OF COLOR DAY Birthday wishes to **JENNI C.**
2 WGCS 91.1 FM presents "A Women's Circle" every Sunday 6-7pm	3	4 **Support Group 7-9 pm**	5 **N.O.W. meeting St. Joe Library 7:00 pm** Happy Birthday **CELIA W.**	6	7	8 **SUSAN S.' BIRTHDAY**
9 **Open Arms 6:30p**	10	11 **Support Group 7-9 pm**	12	13	14	15 **Lavender Rhythm Spring Dance 8pm-1am, Niles**
16	17	18 **Support Group 7-9 pm** RSVP 3rd FRIDAY OUT	19	20 **Spring Begins**	21 **3rd FRIDAY OUT Old Chicago Steak House**	22
23	24 Happy Birthday to **C. CAIN**	25 **Support Group 7-9 pm**	26 B-Day wishes to **BETTY S.**	27	28 Happy Birthday **MELISSA P.**	29
30 **PFLAG 2-4 pm** **VIV'S Creativity Salon, Berrien Springs, Mi. 1PM**	31					